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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

S 19 /03

Foreign Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister,
and Head of the Defence and Overseas Secretariat

17 January 2003

Dear Peter,

IRAQ: UK LAND CONTRIBUTION

The Prime Minister was grateful for the Defence Secretary's letter of 16 January, and for the briefing the previous day with the Chiefs of Staff.

As I told you on the phone late this afternoon, the Prime Minister is content to proceed on the basis of the Defence Secretary's recommendations. I should be grateful, therefore, if you and the FCO would now take things forward as proposed.

We shall be in touch with you separately about the draft statement which the Defence Secretary intends to make to Parliament on 20 January. The Prime Minister is content for this to go ahead subject to one or two small drafting changes, which we can discuss on Monday.

I am copying this to Simon McDonald, Mark Bowman and Sir Andrew Turnbull.

Yours ever,
David Manning

DAVID MANNING

Peter Watkins
MoD

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